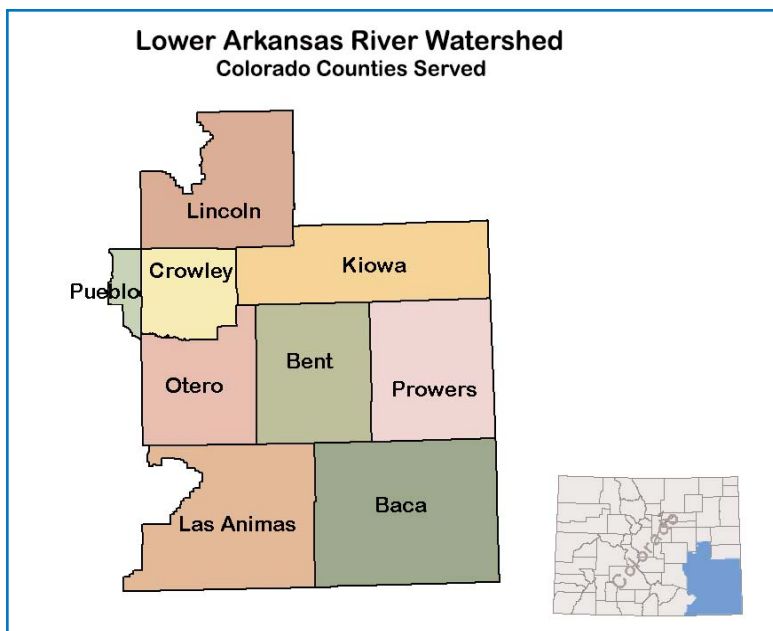


Lower Arkansas River Watershed

What is a Watershed? A watershed is the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river, or lake. Everyone lives in a watershed. You and everyone in your watershed are part of the watershed community.

Colorado Watershed Approach: Instead of the traditional statewide approach in addressing priority resource issues like soil erosion, water quality, grazing lands, wildlife, and animal waste, NRCS looks to Colorado's ten watersheds to identify their particular local resource needs and priorities. Watershed work groups meet annually to determine which natural resource concerns are most prevalent in their communities. In turn, Colorado NRCS focuses its resources on addressing those concerns. Colorado's local conservation districts provide leadership in this effort to foster increased decision making at the local level.

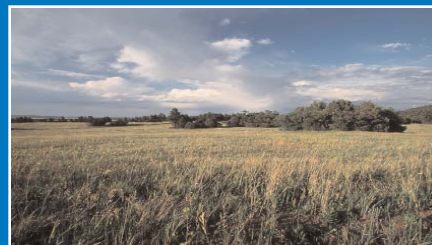


8,683,610 Acres

Land Use	Acres
Irrigated Cropland	369,579
Non-Irrigated Cropland	1,476,642
Rangeland	5,150,000
Irrigated Hay & Pasture	100,000
Non-Irrigated Hay & Pasture	30,000
Forest Land	228,600
Urban	25,500
Conservation Reserve Program	830,992
Other	472,297



Resources at Work in the Lower Arkansas River Watershed



The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners restore and protect grasslands, including rangeland and pastureland, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. It emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland under the greatest threat of conversion.

FY 2004 GRP Statewide Activity

Applications Received353
Applications Contracted7
Dollars Approved \$2,250,000
Acres Under Contract9,066

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

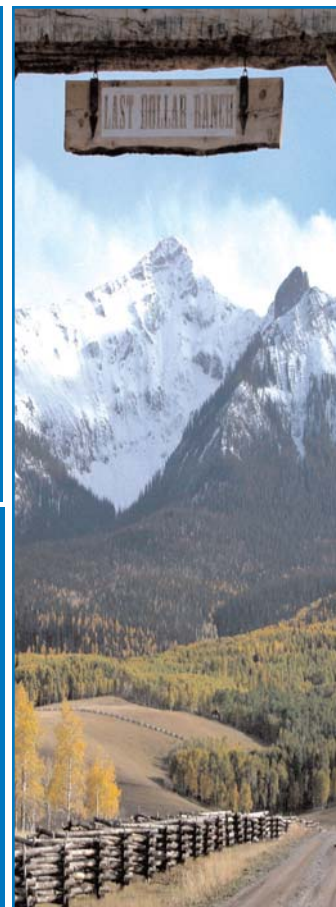
FY 2004 WHIP Activities

Number of Applications Received	.20
Number of Applications Contracted	.5
Dollar Amount Approved	\$72,932
Acres Under Contract	.499.6

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. It provides matching funds to State, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or other land interests.

FY 2004 FRPP Activities

Entity	County	Type	Acres	Federal Share
Colorado Open Lands	Pueblo	Ranch	190	\$69,422
Total			190	\$69,422



The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. EQIP provides financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. EQIP may cost share up to 75 percent of the costs of certain conservation practices.

FY 2004 EQIP Contract Funding in the Lower Arkansas River Watershed

Natural Resource Concerns	Applications Received	Applications Contracted	\$ Amount Approved
Water Quality	89	66	\$1,101,570
AITF	5	5	\$75,066
Soil Erosion	68	18	\$379,295
Grassland	160	29	\$1,152,664
Animal Waste	17	4	\$227,259
Wildlife	52	9	\$255,497
CNMP	1	1	\$500
Ground & Surface Water	108	24	\$1,144,566
Total	500	156	\$4,336,417